

VZCZCXYZ0028
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTC #1287 1591439
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 081439Z JUN 06
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO RUEAZKA/FED AIR MARSHALS SOCD HERNDON VA
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5956
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 8919

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 001287

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SECSTATE FOR EB/TRA/AVP

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAIR](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [OTRA](#) [KHLS](#) [HLSX](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED FOR PD 06-06/11 R54
FEDERAL AIR MARSHAL SERVICE

REF: 251218Z MAY 06

¶1. The Hague grants country clearance PD 06-06/11 R54
Federal Air Marshal Service to travel to the Netherlands on
June 26-July 22, 2006.

¶2. As per reftel, no assistance is required.

SECURITY ADVISORY:

¶3. Since July 9, 2004, the Dutch Government has implemented
heightened security measures in response to concerns of
terrorist activity. U.S. citizens in the Netherlands are
encouraged to monitor media reports, and are reminded to
maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate
steps to increase their security awareness.

¶4. Tensions in the Netherlands are high, sparked by the
November 2, 2004 murder of a Dutch film producer known for
his outspoken criticism of Islam; and by the November 10,
2004 raid on a home of suspected terrorists, which led to an
all-day standoff and ended with the arrest of three
individuals and non-fatal injuries to the suspects and the
police. Subsequent arrests were made in connection to this
raid and further investigation revealed that these suspects
had ties to known terrorist groups. These events initiated
a GoN-wide overhaul of its Counter-Terrorism measures,
including providing more resources to combat violent Islamic
radicalism. There have been a series of protests and arson
attacks directed at mosques and Islamic schools in the
Netherlands, plus retaliatory actions against several
churches. American citizens should bear in mind that even
demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn
confrontational and possibly escalate into violence.
American citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of
demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if
within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

¶5. The U.S. Government remains deeply concerned about the
heightened possibility of terrorist attacks against U.S.
citizens and interests abroad. As noted in the Department
of State's Worldwide Caution of September 10, 2004,
terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian
targets. Such targets may include facilities where U.S.
citizens and other foreigners congregate or visit, including
residential areas, clubs, restaurants, places of worship,
schools, hotels and public areas. Terrorist actions may
include, but are not limited to, suicide operations,
assassination, hijackings, bombings or kidnappings. These
may involve aviation and other transportation and maritime
interests.

¶6. An area of concern for visitors to the Netherlands is crime. Most crimes against official Americans are limited to pick-pocketing and purse and luggage theft. Theft from automobiles and hotel rooms are not unknown. Recently, theft of laptop computers has increased, especially at Schiphol Airport and major train stations. The thieves operate in small groups that target travelers. They are determined and well-practiced at distraction theft. Official travelers have been victimized, losing personal or unclassified government computers, software and data.

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Travelers are reminded that regulations require the use of the diplomatic pouch for shipment of classified equipment and information.

¶7. Streets can be walked in relative safety but, as in any U.S. urban area, caution and vigilance should be exercised especially after dark in the more populated cities of The Hague, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Red-light districts and public transportation hubs are common locations for incidents of street crimes.

¶8. For the latest security information, Americans living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet web sit at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Cautions, Public Announcements, and Travel Warnings can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free I the U.S., line at 1-317-472-2328. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

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